

CHAMPIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

MONTHLY GRANT PROGRAM

www.scdhec.gov/champions

Champions of the Environment encourages environmental action and knowledge. The monthly grant program rewards South Carolina's K-12 students, teachers and others who involve students in environmental learning. Champions of the Environment is sponsored by SC DHEC, International Paper and WIS-TV.

If you have a project that protects the natural world, or teaches others about problems in the environment and how to address those problems, and you need money to continue or improve that project, please consider applying to Champions of the Environment. Monthly grant recipients will receive a one-time award of \$500. This award is for materials and equipment that will enhance and expand environmental projects.

Grant winners also receive Champions' T-shirts and are featured on the Champions' web page. In addition, a 30-second TV spot highlighting the winner's project will air on WIS-TV, Columbia for a few weeks. In return, we ask grant recipients to share information about their project with others.

This competitive grant program is open to all of South Carolina's K-12 teachers and students. Those educating K-12 students outside of a school setting are also eligible to apply. A single student or a group of any size may complete the project. Students who receive a grant for an individual project may use their award for future educational expenses.

The grant year runs from July to April. Applications must be received by the 25th day of the month to be considered for a grant award for the following month. Each month, applications received to date will be considered to receive a grant award. There is no need to reapply during the school year. The Champions of the Environment Awards Committee may withhold an award if none of the projects fit the selection criteria. No more than ten grants will be awarded during the grant cycle (July – April).

A portfolio of materials submitted will be kept for each application. Applicants are encouraged to submit updates about their project. Pictures, videos, newspaper or newsletter articles, and other illustrations of your project will allow the committee to more effectively evaluate your entry. Additions to the portfolio are accepted at any time. Any new material will be considered at the first monthly meeting after it is received. Digital pictures and other information can be e-mailed to Lynne LaSalle at lasallli@dhec.sc.gov. You may also call (803) 898-4394 or fax (803) 898-2893.



Overall Champions of the Environment

The Annual Champions of the Environment Awards Ceremony is held at the end of the school year in Columbia. The top environmental projects will be chosen from the pool of monthly grant winners. These overall winners will qualify to receive an additional grant award.

CHAMPIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT is proudly sponsored by:



CHAMPIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

2004-2005 GRANT AWARD PROCEDURES

To become eligible to receive a monthly grant award and qualify for an overall award:

- ❖ Complete the Champions of the Environment Application.
- ❖ Write a project narrative. The narrative should be a maximum of two pages and address the following:
 - a. Summary statement (2 paragraph maximum) – This should be a very basic explanation that will provide the reviewing committee with an understanding of the **purpose, goals and expected** outcomes of your project. Include how the idea for this project came about.
 - b. Project Description – describe your project in more detail:
 - What environmental problem(s) does your project address?
 - How will the project be carried out? (Include who is involved in the project and what role the students have in the project.)
 - What are the project's benefits to the environment? Include at least one benefit to water quality. (For more information about Champions of the Environment and water quality, visit www.scdhec.gov/champions, and click on *About Champions*, or, contact the Champions Coordinator, (803) 898-4394.)
 - What are the project's benefits to the participants and, if applicable, the community?
 - In what ways will you publicize and share information about your project? (Web page, newsletter article, in-service training, etc.)
 - c. Financial need – describe how you will use the \$500 award if your project is selected. Provide a detailed summary of the proposed budget.

Applicants are encouraged to submit photos, videos, or other materials that will help the selection committee gain a better understanding of your project. (Supplemental materials do not count toward the 2-page limit but should not be excessive.)

- ❖ Mail the completed Application and Project Narrative to the Champions Coordinator along with any supporting materials. Champions of the Environment / SC DHEC – Bureau of Water / 2600 Bull Street / Columbia, SC 29201 (Upon receipt of your application, an electronic copy of your narrative will be requested if available.)

If the project is chosen to receive a grant award, the grantee will:

1. Agree to use the grant award as indicated in the project narrative.
2. Complete the project within one calendar year of notification of award.
3. Submit the results of the project to Champions of the Environment to qualify for an overall award at the end of the school year. The report will be due May 1st.
4. Agree to disseminate information by a) creating a web site, if the technology is available at your institution, and b) presenting the results of your project to other educators through a written article, or presentation at a teacher in-service training, workshop or conference.
5. Agree to attend events including, but not limited to, the Champions Kick-Off, WIS-TV interviews, Champions Awards Ceremony, etc.

Applicants are encouraged to use this grant award to continue or improve an existing project. Eligible expenses include supplies, materials, equipment, printing, incidental travel expenses, etc. Student winners who have an individual project may use their award money to pay for future educational expenses. Funds cannot be used to pay for food or certain promotional items. These funds are not intended for student travel such as field trips or for the personal gain of the project director.

Awards will be based on the recommendation of the Champions of the Environment Awards Committee. This Committee has members from the Partner Agencies and Businesses. The committee will read, rate, and determine the award winners. The judges will take the following criteria into account:

- creativity
- student involvement
- the project's environmental benefits
- education of the local community and/or community involvement
- proposed resources/expenditures appropriate
- the potential for long-term benefits for the students and the community

CHAMPIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT 2004-2005 GRANT APPLICATION

Mailing Address: **Champions of the Environment**
DHEC – Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

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- Please check the correct box in each section.
- ☐ I am a Teacher of K-12 students in South Carolina.
 - ☐ I am a Student in grades K-12 in South Carolina.
 - ☐ I educate K-12 students in South Carolina outside of a school setting.
 -
 - ☐ This is a new project
 - ☐ This is a continuation of an existing project
 - ☐ This project has already been completed
-

Project Title _____

Number of staff involved _____ Number of students involved _____ Grade Level _____

Project Coordinator _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone # _____

Email Address _____

(Please list the names and addresses of others involved with this project on back of this application.)

School District _____

School/Work Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

How did you hear about Champions? _____

Teachers who receive a grant award will be expected to share the environmental knowledge and experiences gained through this project with other interested parties, such as teachers, administrators, the general public, or environmental educators. (See # 4 on the previous page.) *Do you agree to share the knowledge and expertise gained from this grant-funded project if selected?* ☐ Yes ☐ No

If our project is chosen, we agree to abide by the criteria as set forth in the guidelines accompanying this application:

Signature of Project Coordinator _____ Date _____
or Student Applicant

Signature of School Administrator _____ Date _____
(teacher applicants only)